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MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST

Toronto, March 9.—General trade conditions on the whole have not improved any. In fact some jobbers report February as the worst month they have had for years. This may be accounted for by the frequent snow blockades and the difficulty of doing business. A hopeful feeling prevails and everyone is looking forward to the spring when business will open up. The financial situation has not changed very much. The banks are conservative and money in England must soon have some effect here. March has been met fairly well which indicates that there is some business doing and that money is more or less plentiful in some lines of trade. There are signs of improvement in business in the United States. The recovery there should soon begin to be felt here as conditions generally are better to the north of the line.

WHEAT

Receipts of wheat in Europe showed several million bushels in each week, over the week previous, and reports regarding wheat crop in southern Russia are favorable. The Northwestern Russia crop has been reported steady to firm. The Chicago wheat market seems to be the point of interest on this side of the water. It has been pitted against the European market and some wild speculations during the week and have fluctuated. It is reported that Armour and Lichstein now control the market. If so, the outsiders will have to wait a while for their crop. The final report of the grain crop for Saskatchewan shows a wheat yield for 1907 of 27,000,000 bushels. March wheat is quoted at Winnipeg at 1.15, a bu. May at 1.12, and July at 1.15. Some speculation must have confidence in the future market. At Montreal there is a good contract demand for Manitoba wheat. Ontario millers are benefiting a little from an increased demand for flour. But unless this increases, they will not be buying much wheat for while. Wheat is now worth \$5.50 a bu. and flour is being exported on a basis of \$3.75 a cwt. On Toronto Farmers' market, fall wheat brings 50c and goose 50c a bu.

COARSE GRAINS

The oat market is not so strong, though the business was transacted at Montreal during the week at good prices. Prices there range from 50c to 55c to quality. Here the market is steady at from 52c to 55c on track. On Toronto, or 50c to 55c outside. On the Farmers' market, here outside bring 50c to 52c a bu. The large buyers of seed oats for the West should have the effect of steadying values. It must be remembered, however, that farmers have been holding their stock awaiting a higher market or until they saw how their feed supply named in May. Noting the winter is nearing the end, and they are where they are, farmers will be marketing more freely.

The barley market is dull and there is very little movement in the country. It is to be the quotations to the trade. Penns are steady at 80c.

FEED STUFFS

Manitoba feed wheat is scarce and prices are firm. Car lots are quoted at Montreal at 50c and 55c for No. 2. Dealers here quote feed wheat at 50c for No. 2 and 55c for No. 2 at Georgian Bay. Very little feed continues scarce under a good demand. At Montreal Manitoba bran is quoted at \$2.25 a ton and shorts at \$2.50 and middlings at \$2.75 a ton. Here full cars of bran are quoted at \$2.50 to \$2.75 a ton, and outside and shorts \$2.50 to \$2.75 a ton.

HAY AND STRAW

The order of the British Board of Agriculture prohibiting the exportation of hay and straw into Great Britain will not apply to Canada. We will be allowed to export as usual. Canada has always been a large exporter of hay, though on account of the government's prohibition the exports this winter have not been as large as usual. There is a fair demand at Montreal for baled hay, and supplies ample for all requirements. Prices rule steady at \$15 to \$16 a ton, and for No. 2, \$12.50 to \$13 for clover mixed, and \$12 to \$12.50 for clover in car lots. Timothy baled is quoted here at \$16 to \$17 and baled straw at \$9 to \$10 a ton in car lots on track. On Toronto, On the Farmers' market house hay, Timothy, brings \$15 to \$16 a ton.

EGGS AND POULTRY

Though receipts of new laid eggs are increasing prices keep firm. At Montreal the tone is very firm and there is an active local demand. American selected new-laid are selling here at 30c, and ordinary at 27c to 30c a dozen. Here new-laid eggs are arriving in fairly large quantities. In jobbing, they are quoted at 30c to 35c, and on the Farmers' market at 30c to 35c a dozen.

The poultry trade is quiet. Receipts are light and there is little demand. Extra choice young turkeys are quoted at 15c to 16c; young geese and ducks at 9c to 11c; choice chickens at 12c to 13c;

old fowl at 6c to 8c, and inferior stuff at 5c to 7c a lb. On the Farmers' market, prices are from 10c to 20c a cwt. higher, with choice young turkeys selling at 25c to 30c a lb.

DAIRY PRODUCE

The cheese market shows no change. The English buyers seem to be holding off with the hope of getting cheaper goods later in the season. The outlook prospect of this. Stocks are light on both sides of the Atlantic and there is no more cheese than the most intensive demand until the new cheese is on the market, though continued high prices may help to lessen consumption. At Montreal prices are 15c to 17c for Western colored and 17c to 18c for whites. The butter market has lost its exciting character and during the week business has been on sadder lines. The very high prices that have curtailed consumption somewhat. This would mean retailing at 40c a lb. when the poorer people can afford to pay. Stocks, however, are light and the demand is strong and prices are bound to remain high for a time. At Montreal the demand for strong and extra strong creamery the finest creamery bringing 30c, some extra strong 28c, and winter-made creamery bringing 25c to 28c and dairy rolls 25c to 27c a lb. Supplies are scarce here with prices firm for the creamery prints and 25c to 30c for solids; and 25c to 27c for the prints. 25c to 30c for large rolls and 25c to 30c a lb. for solids. Some choice creamery has sold as high as 35c a lb. and winter-made creamery butter sells for 25c to 30c a lb.

Receipts of live stock on Toronto market rolled larger last week especially towards the end of the week. The market has cleared from the effects of the recent snow blockade. Consequently, trade was not so brisk, especially for poorer quality stock. Finished beefers are in demand with prices firm. The market for rough cattle offering are the number seems to be increasing. Sellers cannot expect good prices for this kind of stock. It will pay, even at present prices for grades to feed their own cattle a few weeks longer. The feeder will then have something to offer worth while and something to be desired.

The city market has developed into a butchery market. Very few pictures are sold here. The great bulk of the export trade is done at the Union Stock Yards. The American export exporters sold there during the week at 85c to 87c a cwt. Quotations on the city market for export steers range at about 85c a cwt., and export bulls at 83.75 to 84.25 a cwt.

The best picked butchers' cattle sell at \$4.50 to \$4.75 a cwt. and medium to fair and good cows at \$3.50 to \$4, and common cows at \$2.50 to \$3.50 a cwt. The best picked butchers' hogs are offered at \$12 to \$13 a cwt. Generally speaking the market for milkers and springers is not so strong as it was. Choice veal calves are in demand. Prices range from \$10 to \$13 a cwt. Quality choice hogs will bring \$7 a cwt. or better.

The sheep and lamb market rules firm. Export sheep are quoted here at \$4.50 to \$4.75 a cwt. and medium to fair and good ewes at \$3.50 to \$4.50 a cwt. The quality of grain fed lambs are in demand at \$7.25 to \$7.50 a cwt. for good, and \$6.75 to \$7.25 a cwt. for the common. Yearlings and weaners are in demand. For butcher purposes sell at \$5.25 to \$5.50 a cwt. Choice spring lambs are quoted at \$4.50 to \$4.75 a cwt. and quality choice lambs will bring \$7 a cwt. or better.

There are no big changes in prices in the American hog market and if all that we hear about Canadian packers bringing in American dressed hogs, the parts they want, and curing them for export, is true, it is not likely to be a check put upon it soon by the advance to the south of the line. The winter has it that many of our packers buy the carcasses over there, dip it in the salt, and then export them. It is through the Canadian customs at 2c a lb. instead of 3c for the fresh article. If the government should certainly should the action at once. But why any packer should do this is a mystery. They get and bring it in here, when he can buy hogs at home so cheaply is a mystery. The "bearing" the home market, thus enabling the packer to get a better price for his trade at a price that will enable him to make a profit at present prices for bacon in England and the United States, however, has had an overplus of the bacon that is the result of the packer for the flattening out of the market as on a season when prices should be on